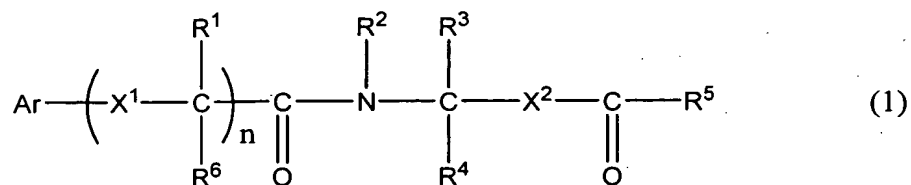


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~di- or tripeptide derivative~~ peptide having a naphthyl group and represented by the following Formula (1) or a salt thereof



wherein

Ar represents a unsubstituted naphthyl group or a substituted naphthyl group having ~~which may have~~ one or more substituents,

R¹, R² and R³ each represent independently a hydrogen atom ~~or a~~, an unsubstituted straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~or, an unsubstituted~~ branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~which may have, a substituted~~ straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, a branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents,

R⁴ represents a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted amino acid side chain, an unsubstituted amino group, an unsubstituted amidino group, ~~a guanidiny~~ an unsubstituted guanidino group, a an unsubstituted straight-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~or, an unsubstituted~~ branched-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a an unsubstituted straight chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~or, an~~ unsubstituted branched-chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a an unsubstituted straight-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~or, an~~ unsubstituted branched-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, ~~or an~~ unsubstituted amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, a substituted amino acid side chain having one or more substituents, a substituted amino group having one or more

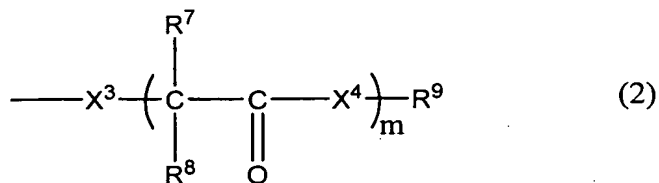
substitutents, a substituted amidino group having one or more substitutents, a substituted guanidino group having one or more substitutents, a substituted straight-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, a substituted branched-chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, a substituted straight chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, a substituted branched-chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, a substituted straight-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, a substituted branched-chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, or a substituted amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms ~~all of which may have and~~ one or more substitutents,

X¹ is a single bond or an unsubstituted alkylene group having 1 or 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted alkylene group having 1 or 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, or a unsubstituted aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substitutents, wherein said ~~which may have as a substituent is selected from the group consisting of~~ a straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, ~~or~~ a branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, ~~or~~ a straight-chain oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and a ~~or~~ branched-chain oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

X² is a single bond or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R⁶ represents a hydrogen atom or -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

n represents an integer of 0 or 1, and R^5 represents a group represented by the following Formula (2),



wherein

X^3 represents -O- or -NR¹⁰-,

X^4 represents -O- or -NR¹¹-,

R^7 represents a hydrogen atom, an amino acid side chain or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R^8 , R^{10} , and R^{11} each represent independently a hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R^9 represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and

m represents an integer of 0 or 1, and

wherein the following specific peptide is excluded by proviso

<u>Ar</u>	<u>Unsubstituted naphthyl</u>	<u>X²</u>	<u>Absent</u>
<u>X¹</u>	<u>CH₂</u>	<u>X³</u>	<u>NR¹⁰</u>
<u>n</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>R¹⁰</u>	<u>H</u>
<u>R¹</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>m</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>R⁶</u>	<u>NHY</u>	<u>R⁷</u>	<u>Tyrosine side chain</u>
<u>Y</u>	<u>Acetyl</u>	<u>R⁸</u>	<u>H</u>
<u>R²</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>X⁴</u>	<u>O</u>
<u>R³</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>R⁹</u>	<u>CH₃</u>
<u>R⁴</u>	<u>C₃-guanidinoalkyl.</u>		

2. (Currently Amended) The peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1, wherein

Ar of Formula (1) represents a 1-naphthyl group or a 2-naphthyl group,

R¹, R² and R³ of Formula (1) each represent a hydrogen atom,

R⁴ of Formula (1) represents a basic amino acid side chain having an amino group or a ~~guanidine~~ guanidino group,

X¹ of Formula (1) is a methylene group,

X² of Formula (1) is a single bond,

R⁶ of Formula (1) represents -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

n of Formula (1) represents an integer of 1, and

R⁵ of Formula (1) represents a group represented by Formula (2),

wherein

X³ of Formula (2) represents -O- or -NH-,

X⁴ of Formula (2) represents -O- or -NH-,

R⁷ of formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom, an amino acid side chain, or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R⁸ of Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom,

R⁹ of Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

and m of Formula (2) represents an integer of 0 or 1.

3. (Currently Amended) The peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said peptide ~~derivative~~ represented by Formula (1) is D-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂, D-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂, L-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂ or L-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

4. (Currently Amended) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

5. (Currently Amended) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, a ~~melanocyte-stimulating hormone-inhibiting compound-exhibiting~~ peptide or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1 that exhibits a 50% inhibitory concentration of cAMP production (IC₅₀) of 100 nM or less.

6. (Currently Amended) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said composition is an inhibitor of pigmentation by ultraviolet rays.

7. (Currently Amended) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory compound has a molecular weight of 800 or less.

8. (Currently Amended) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

9. (Currently Amended) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

11. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 1.

12. (Currently Amended) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 5.

13. (Currently Amended) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 5.

14. (Currently Amended) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 5.

15. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 5.

16. (Currently Amended) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 4.

17. (Currently Amended) An immunofunction controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 4.

18. (Currently Amended) An appetite controlling agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 4.

19. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one peptide ~~derivative~~ or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 4.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-19 have been amended.

The amendment of Claims 1-19 is supported by the corresponding claims as originally filed. In addition, support for the amendment of Claims 1-19 can be found in the specification as originally filed at pages 4-43.

No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment.